

Missouri Project WET Facilitator Update

December, 2004



GREETINGS FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR

We are living in interesting times. As a consequence of state budget uncertainties, it has been over a year and a half since I last communicated with you via this newsletter. The next fiscal cycle promises new opportunities and new challenges. This edition of the *Facilitator Update* marks the beginning of a renewed commitment to regular communication with the facilitator network.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the last newsletter. Budget uncertainties are significant obstacles to navigation as we try to move forward with Missouri Project WET. It appears that we have secured a tenuous stability in funding. The duration of this stability is unknown. One of the conditions for maintaining stability is to provide more workshops and professional development opportunities to Missouri educators through enhancement of the Missouri Project WET facilitator network.

In the interval between this edition and the last newsletter, two groups of new Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree facilitators have been trained. Yet, the number of workshops and workshop participants has declined even with the addition of new facilitators to the network. There are many reasons for the decline in workshop numbers. Lack of communication with facilitators, busy work schedules, the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), Grade Level Expectations (GLE's), Model Curriculum development, and serious budgetary challenges in most school districts.

I am asking for your help. The goal is to increase the number of Project WET workshops we conduct by 25 during the next year. This is an ambitious goal and will only be achieved if we work together to revitalize the facilitator network. My commitment to you is to provide an increased level of support to your workshops.

Your part of the commitment is to schedule, plan and conduct at least one six-hour (or longer) Project WET workshop in the next year. If 30% of facilitators schedule a workshop we will exceed the goal for next year.

This year to date, the facilitator network and the state coordinator have conducted a total of 18 workshops. Next year we need to conduct 43 workshops to meet the new commitment. I think we can accomplish this goal. Please find a time that is convenient for you and consider scheduling at least one six-hour workshop. If you need help with marketing a workshop or if you need a co-facilitator give me a call (800-361-4827) and we will work together to make your workshop happen.

A heart felt "thank you" to facilitators who scheduled and conducted workshops this past year. Your efforts for Project WET are deeply appreciated. Lets work together to make next year a banner year for Missouri Project WET.

NOTES FROM THE 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri Project WET experienced another good year in 2002. The facilitator network performed 27 six-hour (or more) workshops that provided Project WET training and materials to 428 Missouri educators.

Of special note in the 2002 data is the inclusion of 139 pre-service teachers who participated in workshops. This is a positive development and a significant increase in the numbers of a critical audience for Project WET materials and training. Please accept a hearty thank you for lending time, energy, and expertise to ensure the continued success of Project WET.

NOTES FROM THE 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2003 workshop year appears to be one of transition for Project WET. The facilitator network conducted 18 six-hour (or more)

workshops that provided Project WET training and materials to 270 Missouri educators. This represents a 63% reduction in the number of workshop participants from the previous year. Possible explanations for this reduction were previously discussed.

The 2003 data records the first significant decline in workshop production and participation. For the first time the number of pre-service educators was approximately equal to the number of in-service educators.

COMPARISON OF 1998 TO 2003 WORKSHOP PRODUCTION

Premium Items	Number of Workshops Performed 1998-2003	Number of Facilitators at Each Level	
		1998	2003
Knit Shirt	1	29	46
	2	19	23
Heavy T-Shirt	3	12	13
	4	2	10
Denim Shirt	5	1	7
	6	1	6
	7	2	2
	8	1	3
	9	0	2
Sweat Shirt	10	0	0
	11	0	0
	12	0	1
	13	0	1
	14	0	0
Note Book	15	0	1
	16	0	1
	17	0	0
	18	0	1
	19	0	0
Unknown	20	0	0

These numbers do not reflect data for facilitators who have been removed from the database. There are 40 facilitators poised within 2 workshops of the next premium level. We should be reaching a critical mass here. The goal is to encourage more facilitators to reach the next workshop level.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

How do we reverse the decline in the number of workshops and the decline in the number of participants in each workshop? The list that follows poses several potential solutions to this problem. If you have other ideas or would like to discuss ways to accomplish the items listed please feel free to give me a call.

- Improve marketing to increase the number of six-hour workshops.
- Improve marketing to increase the number of educators attending each workshop.
- Improve outreach to math, social studies and language arts teachers.
- Improve outreach to school administrators.
- Improve outreach to non-formal educators.
- Provide refresher training to a corps of facilitators who have committed to conduct one or more workshops within the next year.
- Remind facilitators of the existing incentive program.
- Provide additional marketing support to facilitators when a workshop is scheduled.
- Purchase advertising space in publications aimed at school administrators and professional development coordinators.

The strategies listed above are all being considered in the state office. You can help by being alert for opportunities to market Project WET within your school district or in your area of the state. If you have suggestions for additional strategies please call me at 800-361-4827 to discuss your ideas.

WORKSHOP PAPERWORK

The workshop proposal form is the first step in the book order process. The proposal form provides the location, date, time and number of participants in a workshop. I place the proposed workshop on a master calendar and endeavor to ship the number of books you need when you need them.

For your convenience printable versions of the proposal form, the workshop evaluation form, the facilitator follow-up survey form, the participant sign-in form and this newsletter are now located on the web at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/educ.htm>. Please feel free to print, use and submit these forms.

As always, please call (800-361-4827) or e-mail (joe.pitts@dnr.mo.gov) me with an accurate count of your workshop participants at least two weeks prior to the workshop. Your cooperation in this important detail is appreciated. On occasion, I may have to contact you for additional workshop information.

AWARDS

Each year in conjunction with World Water Monitoring Days the Missouri Department of Natural Resources recognizes five middle or high school teachers with the *Water Education Award*. The award is intended to illuminate the outstanding effort and unique opportunities that each instructor provides for students as they learn about water ecology.

To receive the *Water Education Award* a teacher must be involved in the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) program sponsored by the Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. Other criteria include the level of student activity and teacher involvement in Project WET.

I am pleased to announce that three of this year's award recipients are Project WET facilitators. They are Geri Brown, Strafford High School, Diane Crain, Willard High School, and Joan Twillman, St. Charles West High School. Each award recipient will receive a certificate and a copy of the *Healthy Water Healthy People* teacher's guide and testing kit manual from Project WET.

Two more teachers were recognized for their contributions to the VWQM program. They are Susan Franklin, Norborn High School and Mike Collins, Reed Springs High School. We extend congratulations to each of these exceptional educators.

OPPORTUNITIES

Be sure to watch for your copy of our Spring/Summer schedule of courses. The course flyer should be in the mail by mid February. Below is a sneak preview of courses that may be offered during our Spring/Summer schedule.

COURSE SNEAK PREVIEW

Sedimentary Geology*	April 2-3
Healthy Water Healthy People	April 15-17
Cave Science*	April 23-24
The Water Use Cycle	April 30-May 1
IEEIA (Investigating Issues)	June 13-18
Stream Environments*	June 21-23
Big River Systems	July 14-15
Micro-Scale Chemistry*	July 25-26
Micro-Scale Chemistry*	July 28-29
Mo. River Conservation/Culture*	August 2-5
Meteorology	August 6-7
Energy for Missouri	August 10-11

* Course date and location confirmed

The proposed courses and dates above are subject to change before the course schedule is finalized. This schedule also will be available on line and information about the WEB listing will be distributed through our educator broadcast e-mail list. If you have questions about these courses or other offerings please call 800-361-4827 or visit the WEB at <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/oac/educ.htm>.

JOINT ADVANCED FACILITATOR REFRESHER TRAINING

Syd Hime and I are planning a joint Project WET, WILD and Learning Tree advanced facilitator refresher training for summer 2005. We are still working on the details but this training is intended to introduce the joint facilitator network to several new publications that are available from the various projects. Possible topics include *Flying Wild*, PLT Secondary Modules, *Healthy Water Healthy People*, *Discover A Watershed: the Missouri* and others.

This is an advanced professional development event for facilitators of Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree. We will do activities from the new publications and you will receive copies of the materials. You will receive more details, as they become available.

NEW PROJECT WET PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Healthy Water Healthy People

The *Healthy Water Healthy People (HWHP) Educators Guide* and the *HWHP Testing Kit Manual* are now available. There will be a special facilitator HWHP training in 2005. You will be notified when a location and date have been determined. If you work for a school or agency that would like to host this workshop please contact me. The guide is available for purchase at <projectwetusa.org> on the WEB.

Discover a Watershed the Missouri

This new publication from the Watercourse is now available. It is a beautiful educator's guide that contains 37 activities focusing on the Missouri River. Activities are organized in the following topic areas: Hydrology, Watershed, Water Quality, Cultures, Flora and Fauna, Management and Lewis and Clark. In addition to the activities the book provides a comprehensive background on the Missouri River along with many detailed maps and photographs. The guide is available for

purchase at <projectwetusa.org> on the WEB. It is my intention to conduct at least one facilitator training on the *Discover a Watershed: the Missouri* guide before the end of 2005. Again, you will receive notice of this workshop.

THANKS

The strength of Missouri Project WET continues to be the energy, enterprise and determination of the facilitator network. Your volunteer efforts make things happen. Thank you for the continued support of Project WET in Missouri.

May you have the best possible holiday season!

Regards,

Joe Pitts
State Coordinator



Special Facilitator Incentive

To help get 2005 off to a productive start the lead facilitator of the first 10 workshops successfully completed in 2005 will receive their choice of a *Healthy Water Healthy People Educator's Guide* and *HWHP Testing Kit Manual* or the *Discover a Watershed: The Missouri* educator's guide. Successful completion means that you have conducted the workshop and submitted all required follow-up paper work (including payment) to the State Coordinator. This incentive will be awarded in addition to any other incentives you may earn.

Start planning your workshops now and get those proposal forms in early. I would like to award all ten book sets before the end of May 2005. If you need help marketing your workshop contact me and we can discuss some strategies for increasing interest in Project WET.